

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Greeley's Novels Sow Suspicion

While group tours are so organized to get the maximum -- in seeing, in experiencing, in absorbing, in friendships -- the unplanned often is a special bonus. Our tour group to Ireland left Rochester on the Empire at 3:30 Saturday, May 19.

I decided to get my breviary done so sat alone until a man, about 50, seated himself next to me. I read my breviary. He read some paperback. I ignored him completely until the stewardesses wheeled the cart of free drinks down the aisle: soft and hard.

Then I glanced at my companion's paperback and almost glared at him, erupting, "Good heavens! You're reading that trash of Father Greeley, 'Ascent into Hell.'" He said, "When I bought the book I thought: 'It'll be just my luck to sit next to a priest.' What do you think of the book?" "Father Greeley was ordained to extend the Kingdom of God. I don't see that he does that by writing dirty books."

"I admire your Church for allowing him to write as he does. He's interesting." "I do not admire Greeley for writing baleful stuff. One would gather that bed-hopping is an avocation of Catholic priests and bishops. Why not write what will build up the Kingdom of God?"

Then I continued: "You said you were in Hawaii. Did you visit the leper colony of Father Damien?" "No. But I have read some things about him, and I liked a TV movie of his life which was shown a few years ago."

"Well, Father Greeley might better put his talents on Damien or Mother Teresa or Father Ritter or our wonderful pope, John Paul, and such like, rather than writing fantasy books about fantasy priests and bishops. I saw him on a Phil Donahue show, and with a smug smile he had the crust to say his dirty books are really religious parables. God help us! I suppose the writers for Playboy and Penthouse could claim they are writing parables, and their magazines should be listed in the Spiritual Books of the Month Club! Such books

as Father Greeley's novels do the opposite. They pervert the truth. They sow suspicion. No, I have too much reverence for our priesthood to accept calmly Father Greeley's shennanigans."

As we conversed I learned he is in a kind of religious limbo, searching, so do pray that he become a devout Catholic. What a gift for him! He played for Catholic services at some public institution where he worked; and he is a friend of a friend of mine -- the greatly loved Miss Grace E. Miller, who taught English to half the people of Elmira during a long period of teaching at Elmira Free Academy.

I took his name and address and promised to send him John Farrow's "Damien, the Leper" when I returned home. This is a book everyone should read. However I found I gave my copy to a chap, 22 years old, I met in Tom's Diner in Webster, and who had spent two years in Hawaii with the Marines but never got to Molokai. So instead of Damien, I sent my paperback friend a nice copy of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, an improvement on Greeley's titillations.

On arriving at Shannon Airport we proceeded to Galway where we were settled in the Ardilaun House Hotel, on swanky Taylor's Hill, and went to 6 p.m. Mass at the beautiful Galway Cathedral. The next day, Monday, we were coached to the business center so our people could shop. Young Dan Voellinger and I went into the Post Office for stamps, and met a holy Sister stamping some envelopes.

Having introduced ourselves, Dan politely asked, "Have you been to the States, Sister?" "Yes. I studied at Catholic University." "And what do you do here, Sister?" "I teach catechetics."

With a smile, I said, "I hope you teach orthodox doctrine, Sister." Without a smile, she replied, "Who knows what is orthodox today?" I was so taken aback that I did not have the presence of mind to suggest, "Listen to the pope and you will do very well." Alas, a lost opportunity.

These two encounters prepared me for a third at the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, which will unfold next week.



State Forum Participants

Word reached the Courier-Journal last week that several Rochesterians attended the May 7 New York State Senate sixth annual Student Policy Forum in Albany. Those in attendance are (left to right): Rev.

Duane Motley and Andrea Motley, Rochester Christian Academy; Karen Cechowski, Cardinal Mooney High School; Sen. William Steinfeldt; Stephanie Nelson and Sister Marlene McQueeney, also of Cardinal Mooney.

John Paul I Claim 'Absurd': Vatican

Vatican City (NC) -- The Vatican has criticized as "fantastic and absurd" allegations in a book by a British author that Pope John Paul I was murdered and that high-ranking Catholic officials may have been involved in the plot.

A two-line statement issued June 12 by the Vatican press office expressed "shock and disapproval" of the book, "In God's Name," by David Yallop.

An article summarizing the book was published in The Observer, a British newspaper, June 10. The book is scheduled for publication in Britain June 14.

"It provokes shock and disapproval that hypotheses like these can even be formulated in a book -- hypotheses that whoever is familiar with the facts and the people (involved) must find fantastic and absurd," said the Vatican.

The book lists six people it says had motives for killing Pope John Paul I who died in 1978 after only 34 days as pope. The list includes U.S.

Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, head of the Vatican bank; the late Cardinal John Cody of

Chicago; and the late Cardinal Jean Villot, papal secretary of state when the new pope was elected. The book alleges that Archbishop Marcinkus and Cardinal Cody feared being removed from their posts because of financial mismanagement while Cardinal Villot worried that the new pope might alter church teachings on birth control.

The book claims Archbishop Marcinkus was about to be removed from his post by the new pope because of his dealings with Roberto Calvi, head of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano, which went bankrupt in 1982.

Calvi, who was found hanged under a bridge in London in 1982, was also named among those with a motive for murder. The others listed are Licio Gelli, an Italian fugitive wanted for his alleged role in trying to illegally influence Italian public figures through the secret P-2 Masonic lodge; and Michele Sindona, a

former Italian banker serving a 25-year sentence for bank fraud in the United States.

The book alleges that Gelli may have ordered the murder for fear that the removal of Archbishop Marcinkus from his Vatican post threatened his international financial operations.

The author speculates that the drug digitalis was used to kill the pope. He cites the lack of an autopsy and alleged confusion about the

time and circumstances of the pope's death as reasons to believe the pope was murdered.

Pope John Paul I died Sept. 28, 1978. Several days later Italian Cardinal Silvio Oddi said the College of Cardinals did not consider having an autopsy because "we know, in fact, with certainty that the death of John Paul I was due to the fact that his heart ceased to beat by entirely natural causes."

CYO Accepting Job Applications

The Catholic Youth Organization's Hispanic Youth Employment Program is accepting applications from Hispanic youths, 16-20, at 50 Chestnut St., 11th floor.

The program specializes in helping youths who are having difficulties with their studies or who are school dropouts. Further information is available from CYO at 454-2030.

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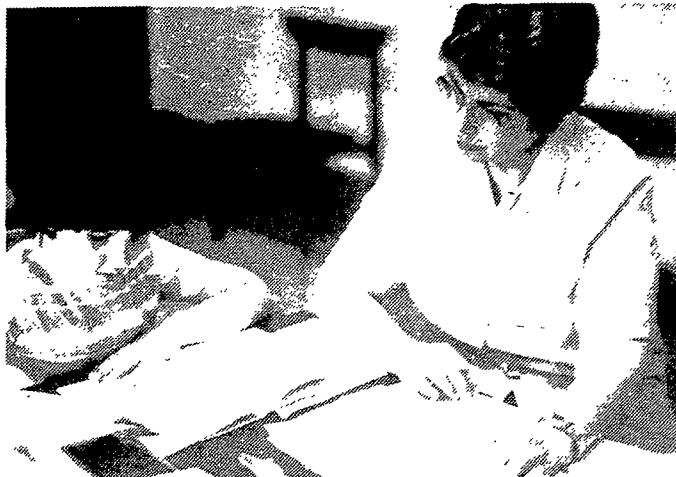
Nurse Alumnae Note Golden Anniversaries

The class of 1934 of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing was honored at a recent dinner. Eight members of the class were in attendance at the event which drew 150.

Those honored were Agnes Muir, Mary Connelly McManus, Verita Snyder LaForce, Helen Hogan Dunn, Mary Anne Beecher O'Neill, Marjorie Dore Davison, Mary DeLesjo D'Etore and Mabel Sechrist.

In addition, members of the classes of 1944, 1959 and 1964 were also singled out for congratulations.

President Mary Anne Murphy Palermo presented a \$250 check from the alumnae to Sister Mary Alice Roach, president of the hospital.



Sisters Tutor

Sister Mary Fatima Matrachisia, SSJ, tutors a young pupil during the 1983 Sisters of St. Joseph Summer Tutorial Program. The program will again run this year for pupils completing grades one through eight this June. An hour will be given each day, in a one-on-one teaching situation. The cost of the program which will run July 9-20 or July 23-August 3 is \$8 per hour with a non-refundable registration fee of \$20 which is credited to tuition. Further information is available by calling Sister Jeanne Morreall, 621-2794.

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